Transportation of foodgrains

3713. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foodgrain stocks in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that FCI godowns are almost full with foodgrain stocks;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has requested Railways to provide rakes for transportation of foodgrains;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that inspite of Railways consent to provide more rakes for transportation of foodgrains, his Ministry is failing to provide a list of destinations where the foodgrains have to be transported; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the Ministry would transport foodgrains to desired destinations before arrival of fresh stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The stocks of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 30.06.2009 were 196.16 lakh tons and 329.22 lakh tons respectively.

(b) Due to record procurement of wheat and rice in RMS 2009-10 and KMS 2008-09, the stocks of foodgrains held by FCI have increased. Substantially as on 1.07.2009, there was 88% utilization of the storage capacity available with FCI.

(c) to (e) FCI plans the movement of foodgrains on monthly basis on the basis of the demand of the foodgrain by the States under TPDS and other schemes, availability of storage space, and buffer stocks in consuming/procuring region etc.

In case FCI faces problem in getting adequate number of Railway rakes, the issue is taken up with Railway Board.

Bogus ration cards

3714. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether bogus ration cards are adding to the woes of PDS system to function normally;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the bogus ration cards identified so far during the last three years in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove the bogus ration cards completely from each State especially from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated jointly by Central and State/UT Governments. The responsibility for correct identification of eligible BPL families as per poverty estimates of Planning Commission and

effectively distributing the allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) if of the State/UT Governments.

(b) As reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh, based on demographic details and eligibility criteria, the State Government recognizes prevalence of some bogus ration cards.

(c) and (d) To streamline functioning of TPDS in consultation with State Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which *inter-alia* includes continuous review of BPL/AAY lists and to eliminate ghost/bogus ration cards. As part of implementation of this Action Plan, 15 State Governments have reported by 14.07.2009 deletion of 148.45 lakhs bogus/ineligible ration cards as given in the Statement (*See* below).

Further, instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, for issuance of ration cards it uses iris biometric technology. This technology allows the State authorities to identify duplicates and bogus cards. Based on this, the State Government is planning to take up a comprehensive door to door verification in the entire State starting from August, 2009 to weed out bogus cards.

Statement

The number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Government with effect from July 2006 onwards

(Updated on 14.07.2009)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.05
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.74
4.	Delhi	16.32
5.	Gujarat	0.36
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01240
7.	Karnataka	4.54
8.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97

1	2	3
9.	Maharashtra	29.45
10.	Meghalaya	0.00341
11.	Orissa	2.50
12.	Sikkim	0.00914
13.	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
14.	Uttarakhand	0.16
15.	West Bengal	(individual cards) 52.92
	TOTAL	148.45

Discrepancies in number of BPL card holders

3715. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of discrepancies in the exact number of BPL card holder families in the country and there is large scale of pilferage of food items provided under the scheme;

(b) what is the exact number of BPL card holders and Antyodya Anna Yojana beneficiaries in the country; and

(c) whether the available figures are based on the last census report, or any fresh list has been prepared by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented jointly by Government of India and State/UT Governments with sharing of responsibilities in this regard. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and bulk allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within State/UT, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on estimates of Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, licensing of Fair Price Shops (FPS) as well as supervision over distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration card holders through the fair price shops are of the State/UT Governments.

For allocations of foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS, Department of Food and Public Distribution uses the number of BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000 or the number of such families actually identified and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less. This number of BPL families is 6.52 crore, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

However, as reported by end of June, 2009, State and UT Governments have issued 10.86 crore BPL cards, which include 2.43 crore AAY cards. A statement showing State-wise